Replica

Slice of Life Slice of Bliss

Volume 2 Chapter 7

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card:7 さかさまシティ

contrary city

I'm going.
DON'T BE SILLY OF COURSE I AM
HMPH YOU'RE NOT CONCERNED AT ALL
IT'S QUITE A CAUSE FOR CONCERN
I'M GRATEFUL. BUT IS YOUR BODY UP FOR IT?
OH, HEAVILY-INJURED-ONE, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
I DON'T WANT TO HAVE THESE BANDAGES, THEY'LL REVEAL MY VULNERABILITIES
Hmph
LISE UP, YOU MEAN
ANYTHING USEFUL, I WILL USE TO THE FULLEST EXTENT

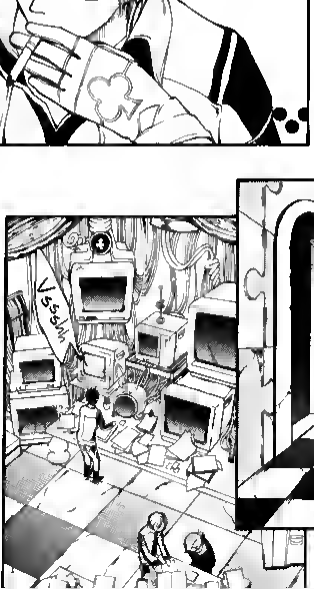
THANK THE PERSON WHO WASHED MY CLOTHES FOR ME
HM. NOW WHO WAS IT THAT WASHED THEM?
GRAMPS WILL YOU TRY TO REMEMBER?
THE PREPARATIONS ARE COMPLETE WE CAN LEAVE AT ANY TIME
THEN PROCEED TO THAT STREET I TOLD YOU ABOUT.
HERE'S THE MAP. TAKE IT.

SORRY!
Wh-what?
Ashy, didn't you say so earlier?
Um... The motorcycles are on the other side...

WHAT'S WRONG?
DRIVE CAREFULLY

UH-HUH, ALL GOOD

NITO-SAN, A MEMBER OF CLUBS HAS REACHED WHITE TOWN
THE PICTURE JUST CAME IN!

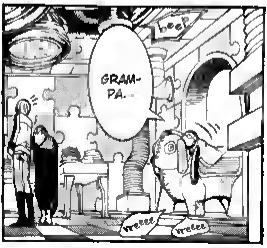

VSSSH

TOTAL 52 WOUNDED IN VARIOUS STATES NO DEATHS
THE STREETS ARE UNUSABLE FOR THE MOST PART AS YOU CAN SEE. REPAIRS WILL TAKE SOME TIME
THIS IS NITO
WHAT'S THE SITUATION ON CASUALTIES?

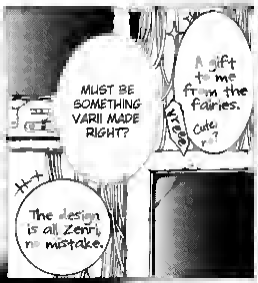
AH IT'S SO TERRIBLE

Hohoho
AS IT IS I HAVE NO IDEA HOW TO SPEND ALL THIS MONEY, AT LEAST LET ME USE IT TO SUPPORT CARDS
I, THE SO-CALLED WORLD'S RICHEST MAN, AM NOW ALL ALONE AND HAVE NO NEED TO WORRY ABOUT SUCH THINGS
close

WELL?
WE MAY HAVE TO RELY ON YOUR WEALTH AGAIN, SORRY


beep
GRAMPA.
Weeee
Weeee

THANK YOU
WE'LL BE IN CONTACT AGAIN ONCE WE FIGURE OUT THE STREET AND OTHER REPAIR FEES
Ho ho ho


MUST BE SOMETHING VARII MADE RIGHT?
A gift to me from the fairies.
Cute, ♪?
The design is all Zenri, no mistake.

UH-HUH, PLEASE PATROL THIS AREA WITH SATTSU
TIME TO WORK?
WHAT IS THAT...?
Here
Vree
Vree

I'LL BE OFF THEN
Ah, I'll go get the motorcycle out!
Be careful...

Vreeeeee
Vree Vreeeeee

...YOU CAN'T WALK ANY-MORE, CAN YOU?
HOW RUDE, TREATING ME LIKE AN OLD MAN ALL OF A SUDDEN.
PLEASE DROP THE ACT.

...GRAMPA TOLD YOU?
creak
I AM QUITE BROKEN DOWN, NO MISTAKE
Old models are annoying that way...

YOUR BODY... IT'S BROKEN DOWN, RIGHT?
THE CIGARETTES ARE ALSO SPECIALLY MADE BY VARII TO PREVENT FURTHER DETERIORATION...

OH ALREADY TAKEN CARE OF HIM? THAT'S MY VICE COMMANDER
FOR LITTLE THINGS LIKE THIS PLEASE HELP OUT COMMANDER

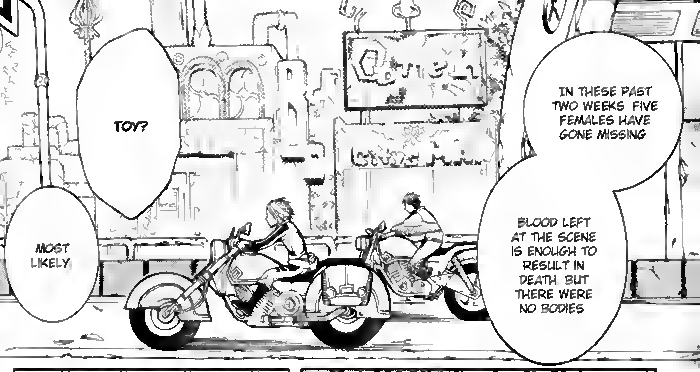
THIS IS KARU-TAICHOU'S REPORT ON THE WHITE TOWN CASE
Take a look
rustle

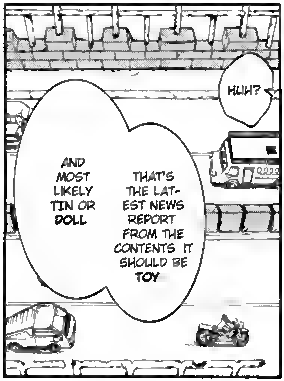
BUT YOU'RE HERE TO HELP ME—
AS LONG AS YOU CAN STILL MOVE

...A fantastical cat that disappears and reappears...
CHESHIRE CAT...?
Flap
EXPLOSIONS, HM...
CAUSING SUCH A COMMOTION, THEY SURE HAD SOME FUN.
HM?
THAT'S A LITTLE UNUSUAL.
What's this?
It feels like I'm forgetting something.
AAA...
IS HE THAT WHIMSICAL?

AH
I DIDN'T MEAN ANYTHING BY THAT...
DO YOU...
KNOW AAA WELL?
flap
AS FOR YOUR QUESTION... I'M NOT SURE OF THE ANSWER EITHER.

What? Contrary City?


TOY?
MOST LIKELY
IN THESE PAST TWO WEEKS FIVE FEMALES HAVE GONE MISSING
BLOOD LEFT AT THE SCENE IS ENOUGH TO RESULT IN DEATH. BUT THERE WERE NO BODIES


HUH?
AND MOST LIKELY TIN OR DOLL
THAT'S THE LATEST NEWS REPORT FROM THE CONTENTS IT SHOULD BE TOY

ACCORDING TO EYEWITNESS TESTIMONY,
IT WAS A "GIANT STUFFED ANIMAL"

You jerk!
THE INFORMATION WE CAN GET IS LIMITED

FLAP
YOU ACTUALLY BELIEVE WHAT NEWS REPORTS SAY
Uwah!

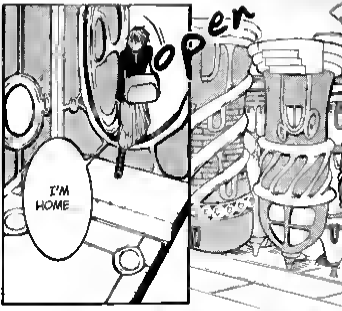
Tch.
I CAN'T MAKE SENSE OF IT
Hmm, let me see.
CONTRARY CITY CHANGED MAYORS A MONTH AGO
YOU CAN SEE IT NOW OVER THERE
Ohh!
IT'S REALLY JUST LIKE ITS NAME SAYS EVERYTHING S UPSIDE DOWN
IT'S SAID THAT THIS IS A CITY OVER-FLOWING WITH HUMOR AND FILLED WITH THE SOUNDS OF ENDLESS LAUGHTER.

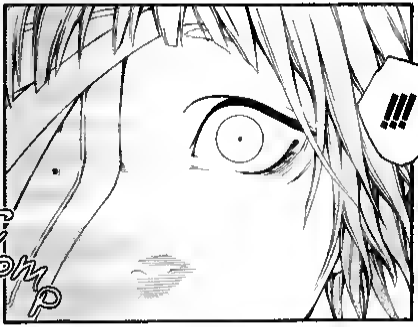
This city...
Has a strange feel to it.
WHAT'S THIS?
Downwards?
EVEN THE SIGNS ARE INVERTED
Eek!
ISN'T THIS GOING A BIT BEYOND HUMOR? IT'S WAY CONFUSING
Heads down
There's a trace of TOX presence
THIS IS THE RIGHT PLACE HOPEFULLY WE CAN FIND SOME CLUES AS TO ALICE'S WHEREABOUTS
?
THERE'S THIS SMELL
I CAN'T PUT MY FINGER ON IT. BUT...
sniff

Who's there?
Wah!
A SMELL?
step
step
step
I WAS IN A HURRY AND DIDN'T NOTICE THERE WAS SOMEONE THERE...
U-UM... I'M SORRY
"WAH?"
Huh?
Oh

!
HUH? MEAT?
UM, YES...
WE MISTOOK YOU FOR THE ENEMY, CAN YOU STAND?
whack
THE ENEMY?
?
MUST BE THAT RAW MEAT JUST NOW.
No.
PLEASE USE YOUR HEAD BEFORE YOU ACT...
THAT WOMAN HAS THE SCENT OF BLOOD
EXCUSE ME I MUST BE GOING NOW.
I'M REALLY VERY SORRY
STEP STEP STEP
!
The smell is coming from her.

ASH, DID YOU BEHAVE?
step
step


I'M HOME
oper


flomp

I'LL GET YOUR FOOD RIGHT NOW...
!!!

bang

turn

!
WHAT WERE YOU IN A RUSH FOR...?
YOU'RE THE PEOPLE I RAN INTO JUST NOW...
HUH?
UGH...
You... Out of the where?
PARDON ME...
Huh?
Ah...
This is...

I...
WHAT KIND OF ANIMAL WERE YOU KEEPING?
A CAGE?
ALSO LOOKS LIKE IT'S ALREADY ESCAPED...
AND KEPT IN SUCH A LARGE CAGE
HUH, A CARNIVORE?
A HUGE CHUNK OF MEAT LIKE THIS IS A BIT MUCH FOR ONE PERSON
PERHAPS IT'S MEANT FOR FODDER
BACK THERE
WHAT'S THAT?
Kyaaaa!
!
...THIS ISN'T A GOOD SITUATION, IS IT?
NO, IT'S NOT
SO IT'S NOT TOY
LI-LHM...
Nhaa!?

A RABBIT!?

SFX: CLANG
That's a body!?
Get back, now!
thud
I'll rip you apart!
click
THE ODDS ARE AGAINST US.
Of all the animals on land, rabbits can be counted as one of the fastest.
flash

Huh... Iz
No!
HOLD IT HEY!
sliiiiiide
AH!

NOT AT ALL. WE FORCED OUR WAY IN, PLEASE DON'T MIND US
SORRY, I ONLY DRINK MINERAL WATER...
glug glug glug
FROM THE LOOKS OF THAT BITE MARK... HE DEFINITELY KILLED THAT PERSON
I'LL GET STRAIGHT TO THE POINT,
WHY ARE YOU PROTECTING THAT RABBIT?
sniff sniff
THE ONE THAT BROKE OUT OF THE CAGE WAS HIM?
What!?
...HIS NAME IS ASH.
IT'S NOT RELATED TO TOY AND YET, IT'S EVEN MORE COMPLICATED
PERHAPS HE'S YOUR PET, BUT IF THIS CONTINUES IT WILL JUST RESULT IN CHAOS.

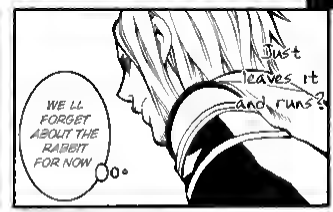
BUT HE'S A VERY GOOD BOY, VERY OBEDIENT
IT'S TRUE! HE SUDDENLY GOT BIGGER ABOUT A MONTH AGO...
THAT THING?
BEFORE HE WAS JUST NORMAL-SIZED!
WHAT'RE YOU THINK-ING?
.....
UGH!
A GOOD BOY WOULDN'T BE KILLING PEOPLE
Suddenly got bigger.. Does this have some-thing to do with TOY?
I'M AFRAID THESE MUR-DERS MAY HAVE BEEN COMMITTED BY THAT RABBIT JUST NOW
AND THE GIANT RABBIT AND THE BODY WE JUST BURIED PLUS THE 4 MOUNDS OF DIRT OUT BACK... THESE 2 GROUPS MAY ACTUALLY BE THE SAME
THE 4 MISSING PERSONS AND THE "STUFFED ANIMAL" FROM THE WITNESS STATEMENTS...

IS SOMETHING THAT STARTED RECENTLY...
ASH KILLING PEOPLE...
SHUSH.
What!?
Slap
rahhh
I'M BEG-GING YOU! PLEASE DON'T TELL ANYONE!
Oh...
SO THAT'S WHY YOU'RE FEEDING HIM MEAT?
Squeez
AT FIRST I THOUGHT HE WAS EATING THEM...
BUT THAT WASN'T IT... ASH DOESN'T EVEN EAT GRASS ANY-MORE...
YOUR PET IS KILLING PEOPLE AND YET YOU WANT US TO HELP YOU KEEP IT A SECRET? DON'T YOU THINK YOU'RE ASKING A BIT MUCH?
..Uah!
Oh well, I only saw that much anyway.

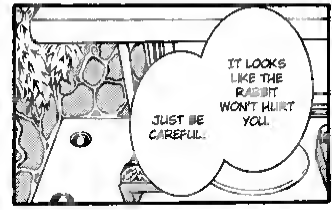
AH...
YOU'RE RIGHT.
I'M SORRY
I LOST MY PARENTS DUE TO A FIRE... THE BURNS COVERING HALF MY BODY CAUSE ME TO FEAR GOING OUT INTO THE CROWDS...
ASH HAS BEEN MY ONLY EMOTIONAL SUPPORT...
BUT NOW THINGS HAVE COME TO THIS... WHAT SHOULD I DO...?
P.S.L.
IT'S ALL OVER NOW...
HA HA... IF ONLY I COULD BECOME LIKE EVERYONE ELSE...
EVERYONE ELSE?
AH... YOU'LL KNOW WHEN YOU SEE IT.
THE PEOPLE OF THIS CITY ARE VERY STRANGE...

"Keep an eye on Akainu?"
DURING THIS TIME AKAINU CAN
Her mind is at the breaking point...
Perhaps it would be better to ask for clarification from the mayor?
AAA IS ALWAYS INTERESTED IN NEW PLAY-THINGS
HE MAY HAVE HIS EYE ON HIM ALREADY.
IT SEEMS TOY WAS TARGETING AKAINU WITH THE EXPLOSIONS
UH-HUH. TRY TO STAY TOGETHER AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE.
WHY?
JUST THINK OF HIM AS A BAIT WE'RE USING WHILE WE LOOK FOR ALICE
THE NEXT TIME THEY SET A TRAP FOR HIM, YOU MAY BE ABLE TO FIND SOME CLUE ABOUT ALICE

A bait that's nothing but trouble
WITH SOMETHING THAT'S GOT A SHORT-CIRCUITED BRAIN, JUST KILL IT
WAIT, WHAT DID YOU SAY?
HOW DID THE CONVERSATION TURN TO THIS?
Kill him.


Just leaves it and runs?
WE'LL FORGET ABOUT THE RABBIT FOR NOW

OH WELL
YOU SAID HIS NAME IS ASH?
DO YOU KNOW WHERE HE WOULD GO?
NO, JUST THAT ON THE DAYS WHEN HE LEAVES A BODY, HE DOESN'T COME BACK.


IT LOOKS LIKE THE RABBIT WON'T HURT YOU.
JUST BE CAREFUL.

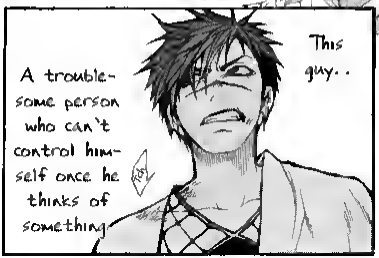
Huh?
Go where?

LET'S GO
WE'LL TAKE OUR LEAVE NOW

SO NOISY

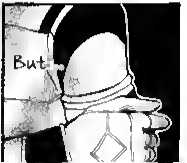
IF WE'RE GOING TO THE MAYOR'S PLACE, THEN JUST SAY SO, BALDY.

Brainless and loves wasting his own energy, such a problem.


This guy..
A trouble-some person who can't control him-self once he thinks of something.

Are you listening to me punk?
Even after he found out I was a DOLL, he didn't say anything.

Says whatever he's thinking, a direct route from brain to mouth


But

Chuck
A GUY AS SIMPLE AS HIM, IS A RARE SIGHT NOWADAYS.
What exactly is wrong here?
So blurry and unclear
mumble
WERE YOU TALKING?
What is?
What is this feeling?
I don't need it
"Perfect for passing the time"
I can't understand him at all.
Just what is this guy thinking?

I don't need it.
AH,
HOLD ON, HOLD ON YOUNG FELLOWS
HOW ABOUT A CREPE? IT'S SWEET AND DELICIOUS
Huh? A crepe?
WHERE IS IT?

HUH—?
where?
CREPE
IT'S RIGHT HERE, CAN'T YOU SEE?
CR EEECH
HEY!
ガシャーン!!
SFX. crash
BAM
thud
thud
thud
roll
roll
This damn little brat—!
OH, HOW TROUBLING.
roll
Uwahahaha
hahaha
THE THIRD ONE TODAY, DESTRUCTION SUCCEESSSS!
roll

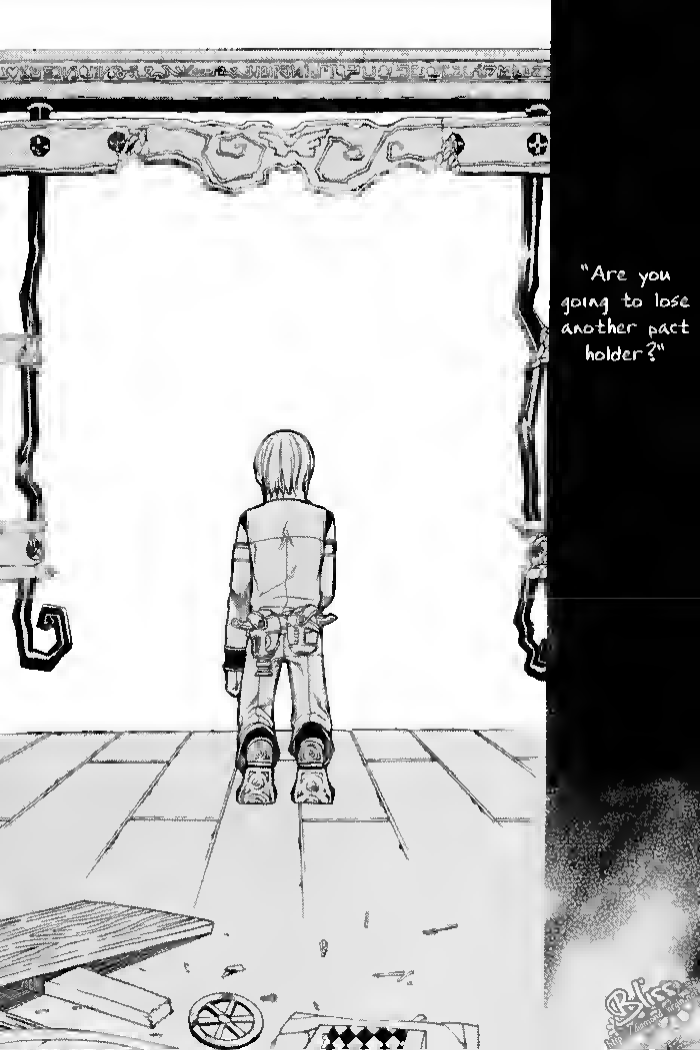
WHAT'S WRONG WITH THESE PEOPLE...?
WELL, THEN BREAK A FEW MORE, GRANNY!
OH, HOW KIND OF YOU.
dangle
THE BONE'S BROKEN. THANK YOU!
IS THIS YOURS?
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING!?
!
What? Really?
chatter
WHOA... THIS GUY PICKED UP HER GLASSES!
No way what a jerk.
WHAT...?
DID YOU DO SOMETHING BAD?

"The people of this city are very strange..."
SO SHE MEANT THIS
?
WHAT'S WITH THE MOOD OF THIS CROWD?
ARE THEY MENTALLY UN-STABLE?
THAT'S THEM?
chatter
chatter
chatter
I HEARD HE PICKED UP HER GLASS-ES
REALLY?
Creak
What the hell are you talking about...?
Crash
The enemy of granny's glasses!
grab
sfx: crack

"I don't need it."
Evg!
AKA-INU!!
flinch

sfx: hurl
Uw-
ooh!
Tch!
Big forehead brat!
You go on ahead!
Gyaaa!

Aha haha!
...There's a river under here?
Splash
IT HAS—
He was the one who said he doesn't need it.
"You're always like this, giving up right away..."
NOTHING TO DO WITH ME


"Are you going to lose another pact holder?"

Pwah!
sfx: splash
dizzy
!
OH IT WAS A RIVER UNDER THERE
It's carried me so far away
splash
splash splash
wobble
wobble
WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME...?
...!?
sag
plop

Oh...
So this is where you're hiding.